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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MARYSVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND AGREES TO RECOMMEND 405 MONTH SENTENCE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that RICHARD MATUCK, 49, of Yuba County, California, pleaded guilty this morning to three counts of production by a custodial person of visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(b), and to one count of possession of visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252(a)(4)(B). As part of his plea agreement, the defendant also agreed to forfeit the computer and camera media used in the offenses. Judge Lawrence K. Karlton accepted his guilty pleas and scheduled the defendant to be sentenced on October 16, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the Marysville Police Department, Yuba County Sheriff's Office, Yuba County District Attorney's Office, and Federal Bureau of Investigation Chico Safe Streets Task Force as a part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). Project Safe Childhood is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to [www.projectsafefchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov) or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laura L. Ferris, who is prosecuting the case, the defendant, as part of his plea agreement, agreed to certain facts. Among these facts, that

he produced images on July 10, 2005; August 17, 2005; and August 25, 2006 of his minor son (by marriage) engaged in sexually explicit conduct involving bondage and that he possessed in excess of 21,000 similar images, many taken in series, depicting the son trying to free himself from various kinds and degrees of bondage. While many of these images were created here in the Eastern District, a series was taken during a trip to Rome, Italy.

The maximum statutory penalty for each violation of producing a visual depiction of a minor is 30 years incarceration, a fine of \$250,000, a life term of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100. Each such violation also carries a 15 year minimum mandatory. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of possession of visual depictions of a minor is ten years incarceration, a fine of \$250,000, a life term of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100.

This plea agreement is pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(c), meaning that the parties have agreed to jointly recommend to the court a sentence of incarceration of 405 months (33.75 years). The defendant agreed to recommend 405 months incarceration, in part, to reach a global resolution of the federal case and related state criminal charges that have been filed by the Yuba County District Attorney's Office related to the molestation of the son. The Court may accept or reject the plea agreement after it considers the presentence report to be produced in this case. If it is accepted, the defendant will be sentenced to 405 months incarceration. If it is rejected, the defendant will have the opportunity to withdraw his plea.

Chief Jack Beecham of the Marysville Police Department lauded the investigators involved in the case and commented that the ability to move this case towards successful resolution so expeditiously is a great example of the benefits of cooperation between all of the government entities involved.

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